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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,787	08/29/2001	Satoshi Suzuki	010966	4600

23850 7590 05/20/2002

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW.
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

SERGEANT, RABON A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2002

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09/940,787	08/29/2001	Suzuki	010966

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Sergent	
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Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

The reply filed on February 28, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Applicants have failed to adequately respond to the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection. Within the body of the rejection, clarification was requested with respect to the way the hardness values are represented within the specification and the claims. However, neither applicants' response nor the translation of the Japanese Industrial Standard clarifies exactly what is meant by the (°) sign. This means of specifying a hardness value appears to be unconventional. For example, the specification and applicants' response fail to establish that 40° equates to 40 (Shore A). It is unclear if the (°) sign clearly denotes that the value corresponds to the A scale for the Shore hardness value. The meaning of the value must be clear when read in light of the specification. Therefore, the specification is considered to be deficient, and applicants have not established that use of the sign is conventional. Furthermore, in the absence of such clarification, the exact meaning and relevance of the value, as claimed, with respect to the prior art cannot be determined. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sergent at telephone number (703) 308-2982.

Rabon Sergent
**RABON SERGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

R. Sergent

May 19, 2002